



Ø BEAT



COLO. SPRINGS,
COLORADO

FEBRUARY 1982

The Other Side of the Story . . .

YL HARMONICS

INTERVIEW WITH A YL:

WHY I BECAME A HAM . . . OR, "HAS ANYBODY SEEN THE CAT LATELY?"

Our thanks to KBØQI Faye Herren for passing along this piece out of the Repeater Journal of Carolina's Virginia Repeater Association.

OM: I know you have your ham ticket now. Maybe our readers would like to hear what made you decide to become a ham after being married to one for 14 years. Why?

YL: To get out of the kitchen.

OM: What do you mean?

YL: Well, I wanted to spend less time in the kitchen. I'd been around hams a lot and I noticed how they like to come home from work, choke their dinner down and go sit in front of the radio all night.

OM: How did that work out?

YL: Not too well. My husband claimed he couldn't even boil water and my son couldn't cook anything but chicken noodle soup. I hate chicken noodle soup.

OM: Well, somebody had to do the cooking. What is it that you don't like about the kitchen?

YL: First off, my stove doesn't even have a digital readout. Also, I was denied a new microwave oven because I was told it would cause QRM on 20 meters.

OM: What else prompted you to get your ticket?

YL: I became tired of going to hamfests, playing tag and being dragged around as anonymous baggage. I wanted my own plastic nameplate. Also, I was having trouble with the terminology. My husband called me one night to say he was bringing home a Yaesu. I asked if he was staying for dinner and began searching for the chopsticks and the rice.

OM: Did you have much difficulty studying for the exam?

YL: Some. I kept asking what was a Colpitts oscillator and no one would answer with a simple "yes" or "no".

OM: Did you get help from other hams in your studies?

YL: To a certain extent. When I would ask for a layman's definition of basics such as "frequency," I would hear, "Uh, well, you know..." while they frantically searched for the manual only to read aloud the same vague unenlightening statement.

OM: What about the code?

YL: I hated code. I was even known to do housework to avoid studying code. But since there was no way around it, I attacked it just to get it behind me. I spent so much time with a cassette tape recorder and an ear plug that my son started to look at me funny. He wanted to know if he too would have a piece of spaghetti growing out of his ear when he got older.

OM: What other sacrifices did you make to become a ham?

YL: Well, it seems I lost an entire winter and spring. The poor cat disappeared one day. She probably started going next door to beg for food. When I would lamely beg off attendance at the women's club, the PTA and my art class with excuses of studying for a "ham exam," I was met with dubious glances of disbelief that laid doubt on the credibility of my excuses. Also the 9:00 a.m. coffee klatch refused to come to my house because they couldn't make themselves heard over the noise of the Wayne Green tapes. They also mumble about the unwashed coffee cups which had taken on a greenish hue.

(continued on page 4)

P.P.R.A.A. DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	Al Bailey ADØZ	2715 Alteza Ln. 80917	597-8514
V. PRESIDENT			
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Board Member	*Karl White K4DQ	4460 Nonchalant Cir. 80917	597-4805

(*Two-year board terms began October 1981)

ZERO BEAT is published monthly in the interest of the members of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc., Colorado Springs, Colorado. Permission is given to reprint articles or excerpts provided credit is given. Deadline for submission of articles is the 21st of the month. Classifieds accepted anytime.

The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association meets on the second Wednesday of every month at the First United Methodist Church, 420 N. Nevada, at 7:30 p.m. All amateurs and interested parties are invited to attend.

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JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

The January meeting of the PPRAA was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President Al Bailey, ADØZ. Introductions were made by the 40 members and guests present along with individual's thoughts on what we would like to see the club active in for the coming year. Interest was expressed in public service, field day, involving members and spouse's in activities, and in many other areas.

The treasurer's report by Doug, WBØMHP, showed a balance of \$1807.09 before membership renewals.

The Education Committee report from Don, KBØKQ, noted that an upgrade class was in progress. The club depends on its membership to properly direct newcomers and interested parties to the education committee for both novice and higher grade licenses. If you know anybody interested in the current upgrade class, please let the committee know so they can make it worthwhile for all concerned. Dave, NØDV, also requested that anyone who would like to teach a Novice class please let him know.

Zero Beat is in need of your articles, your questions, your letters to the editor, or anything you would like to contribute to the newsletter. Don, KBØKQ, reminded us that Zero Beat seldom reprints articles from other sources: we need your inputs.

The Public Relations chairman is putting together a club scrapbook. Mark, KAØJXW, can use any photos or contributions you may have.

Bud, NØDDF, announced the next meeting of CCARC to be held in Ft. Collins on Saturday, January 23.

The idea of a hidden transmitter hunt was discussed with a date set for Saturday, Feb. 6 starting at 10:00 a.m.

The survey sent out with Zero Beat to the members is still being compiled with results to possibly be published in March's Zero Beat. If you haven't filled out your survey and you want to make your wishes known, now's the time.

The need for election of a new vice-president was discussed. It was agreed that the board should serve as a nominating committee and that the election would be held at the February club meeting.

After a break, a program on contesting was presented by Tom, ADØO. With the upcoming VHF contest in January and several event to follow, the program provided many helpful hints and interesting ideas.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg, KAØFOZ

For Sale: Heath SB-104 HF transceiver with matching PS/Speaker, remote VFO, CW filter. Transceiver and power supply upgraded to latest version with Heath mod kits—\$600. Bearcat 210 scanner—\$125. Icom IC-215 2 meter portable FM transceiver with mobile mount. Runs on 13.8V DC or 9 "C" cells (internal). Crystalled for .52, .58, .16-.76, .22-.82, .28-.88, .34-.94 and .37-.97—\$135. Heath GR-78 general coverage receiver with nicad supply/AC-DC charger—\$50. Heath HM-102 FH wattmeter—\$30. All equipment in excellent condition. Call Steve NØST at 598-3994.

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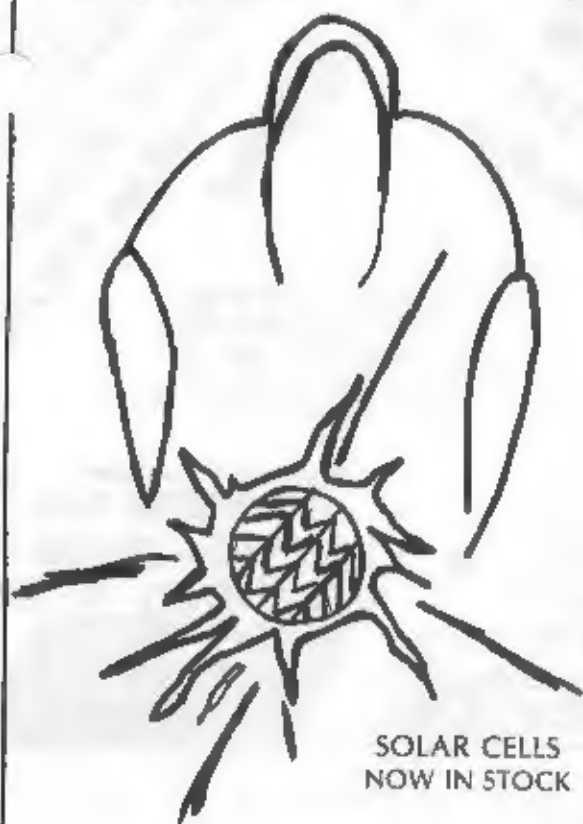
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JANUARY BOARD MINUTES

The Board met at the Utterback's (K4ØFOZ) 1545 Laurette at 7:30 p.m. on January 18, 1982. Those attending were Al (ADØZ), Greg (K4ØFOZ), Doug (WBØMHP), Tom (ADØO), KARL (K4DQ), Mark (K4ØJXW), and Bud (NØDDF).

The board was unable to act in time to place an active ham in nomination for the Cablevision Advisory Committee. Karl (K4DQ) will attempt to attend all their meetings as our watchdog on the watchdogs.

The board had a request to provide a gratis Zero Beat subscription to an individual who will be with us for a short time — It was denied rather than set a precedent.

The questionnaire was discussed at length and it was decided to make the results a subject for discussion at the March general membership meeting. Any remaining program time will be devoted to socializing.

Direction was given to our delegate to the CCARC for the meeting in Ft. Collins on January 23rd. Ask the question — why no agenda? No objection to a dues increase of not more than 20¢. Enthusiastically support the early availability of the DF antenna kits.

Preliminary discussion of the annual Swapfest was held. During the February meeting the membership will be polled on their participation in the Swapfest, i.e., bake sale, etc.

It was with regret that the board acknowledged the resignation of Leroy Smith (WBØLTV) from the office of president. In accordance with the By-Laws Al (ADØZ)

has assumed the president's office creating a vacancy in the vice president's position. The board nominated the following persons to fill the vacancy (Karl White — K4DQ or Bud Libengood — NØDDF). In the event there are no further nominations a vacancy will exist on the board and Mark Richardson (K4ØJXW) was nominated for the vacancy. Nominations from the floor will be entertained during the February meeting followed by an election to fill the vacancy(ies).

The board discussed the possibility that an informal net be formed on 2 and 10 meters on two Wednesday evenings a month. This proposal will be discussed at the February meeting.

A fox hunt will be held on February 6th starting at 10 a.m. Let's all meet at the parking lot of the King's Country Restaurant (Circle & Fountain) and give chase to the fox (to be named later). Come early and have breakfast. You do not have to have the equipment. Those that do will need all the help they can get.

Gay Utterback volunteered (railroaded?) to survey the memberships better halves to see if more activities for the family couldn't be organized in the future. Please let her know what can liven up those family activities.

The February Program will be on Radio Astronomy — March on the Questionnaire and April on Transmitter Hunting (Fox Hunts).

Distinctive caps and/or jackets for the membership was discussed, pro and con. It was decided to make this an item for discussion at a general membership meeting.

There being no further business we adjourned to enjoy refreshments provided by Gay Utterback.

The next board meeting will be held on February 15th at 7:30 p.m. at Tom Weatherly's house.

Respectfully submitted,
Bud, NØDDF

For Sale: Swan 400 with AC/DC power supply and mobile VFO, recent factory reconditioned \$200; Tempo FM H-2 HT with speaker, mike and charger, local crystals, \$90; Regency HR212 2M transceiver \$40. Dave NØDV 473-0293

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Dick Kohlhaas, W5UDM

YL (cont.)

OM: Did all that time you spent studying put a strain on your family life?

YL: Sure did. One day the cat came home, looking like skin and bones, and crawled into my lap. I guess I'd been drinking too much coffee and my nerves were on edge because I screamed at the cat, accusing her of making too much noise while she was licking her fur. She disappeared again. Also, my son asked how old you had to be to join the Foreign Legion or Hell's Angels... whichever came first.

OM: How long did this go on?

YL: Quite a while. I remember I started in the fall and by the middle of summer, with my Advanced license behind me, I found the nation had a new President, my son had grown all his front teeth and had a tattoo, and the cat had had two litters of kittens by the tom next door. The vacuum cleaner had rusted from disuse, there was a brownish green growth hanging from all the corners in the house, and I was having difficulty adjusting to life without an earplug.

OM: Were you nervous when you took your exam?

YL: Some, but more so after I saw those guys fidgeting around taking deep breaths and nervously chewing while muttering about the FCC tape that had so many echoes it was no wonder so many failed the code.

OM: After you got your Novice and Technician, what made you decide to get your General?

YL: One day I overheard a man say that a woman didn't really need a General Class license.

OM: Well, what about getting your Advanced?

YL: That's the license my husband has. I knew if he passed it that I could. After all, he still says megacycles instead of megaHertz.

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OM: What does your husband think of your getting your license?

YL: He was okay until I told him I had hired a maid to come in three times a week so I would have more time to work DX. Of course, he uses my license as an excuse to buy more ham gear.

OM: Well, what does the future hold for you now?

YL: I've thought about trying for my Extra Class license. I've brought home license study guides three different times, but they mysteriously keep disappearing. My husband swears he doesn't know anything about them.

OM: What does he say about your getting your Extra?

YL: He keeps mumbling that would be grounds for divorce.

OM: Are you going ahead with it?

YL: Well... I wouldn't have to share the rig anymore then, would I?

For Sale: IC-HM9, speaker, microphone for Icom 2A/2AT \$20.00. KØJUNS 599-3119.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

On the bottom of page 5 is the membership form for the club for 1982. Dues remain the same as last year — \$12.00 for single and \$15.00 for family membership. Please fill in all the information so our records are correct. Members have until March 1 to renew the membership so as not to miss any Zero Beat issues. Take a moment and fill out the form — so you don't forget to later.

FOR SALE: Six meter USB-LSB-SW-AM station includes Heath HA-20 transmitter, Heath HX-30 120 watt linear amplifier, Ameco CN 6 to 10 meter converter, Ameco PS-1 power supply, coaxial antenna relay, Cush Craft A50-3 3 element beam, Drake TV-1000 LP low-pass filter (not required but it is good insurance). Complete with all interconnecting cables and manuals (except Ameco). All that is needed is your 10 meter receiver and coax to go between the transmitter and antenna and your in business with a very high quality medium power six meter station. All equipment in excellent condition. \$250.00 complete. Ray Uberecken AAØL 495-3544.

For Sale: Kenwood TS 130V. Call Larry KOUKO after 6 p.m. 596-8883

FOR SALE: Great value and used quality radio and video equipment. Make offer. For information call 392-1476 after 6 p.m. — ask for Charlie, KAØMDQ.

MEETING NOTICE

The February meeting of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association will be held on February 10, at 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church on the corner of Nevada and Boulder Avenues. The program will be on Radio Astronomy and will be given by Greg Utterback. All members and interested guests are invited to attend.

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